

SECOND MAN GUNNED DOWN IN LESS THAN 48 HOURS

Rustenburg – In the early hours of Saturday 8 February, another Rustenburg resident was shot.

According to police spokesperson captain Elsabé Augoustides three men broke into the house next door of the victim (in Safari Gardens) when one of the residents of the house woke up. The attackers fled the scene. The victim was in the wrong place at the wrong time. “The victim who noticed that he forgot the family’s budgie outside went outside to bring it in. When he returned, he saw a man standing in the living room,” she said.

Presumably, the attackers saw that the neighbour’s door was open and went inside to hide.

The attacker fired at the victim but missed with the first shot. He fired a second time as he was fleeing and shot the victim in the stomach. The victim, a father of three, was rushed to hospital where he is currently recovering. This attack came only two days after a 55-year old man was shot in his house, less than 5km from the second victims’ residence.



DROWNING INCIDENT CLAIMS TWO LIVES

Makwassie – The Makwassie police opened an inquest docket after two boys drowned on Tuesday 11 February at around 11:00.

According to police spokesperson lieutenant colonel Amanda Funani, a construction site, outside Lebaleng Township in Makwassie, was flooded after heavy rains pounded the area.

Seven young boys, aged eight to 10, saw the filled-up waterhole and decided to go for a swim.

While they were swimming, two of the boys got trapped underneath the water.

“One of the other boys ran to call for help. He came across a police vehicle, stopped it and reported the incident. Police rushed to the scene and called the divers, who retrieved the two bodies,” Funani said.

The police would once more like to urge the community, especially parents and guardians, to sensitise children to not swim in dams, rivers, dongas or quarries. In most cases, the water is not clear and can therefore be very deep and dangerous. Due to the heavy rains, most rivers have strong currents which may go undetected until it is too late. Furthermore, children should never swim without the supervision of an adult.

Our thoughts are with their families during this difficult time.

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‘THEFT-PROOF’ WATER METERS

Rustenburg – Rustenburg Local Municipality is in the process of replacing water meters to curb theft and improve their billing process.

The old copper meters, which are now being phased out, are being targeted by criminals who resell it to scrap-metal dealers. The new meters being installed have plastic covers in a deliberate move to prevent theft.

Rustenburg ward 18 councillor Martha Lerm hopes the theft of water meters will become a thing of the past once all the new meters have been installed. “There had been too many cases of theft with regards to the old meters and hopefully we will get a more positive feedback in this area,” she said, in an interview with *Platinum Weekly*.

“It is mostly the copper meters that criminals target,” she explained.

Installing the new meters outside residential areas and homes has also enabled municipal employees to take readings without any hassles.

“Sometimes, municipal workers tasked to record water meters for billing purposes are not allowed to enter some of the properties. I think this will make it easier for them now,” said a Tlhabane resident.

The capacity of the municipality to provide adequate supplies of water to its residents has come under scrutiny in recent years.

Last year, hot weather conditions and heatwaves during summer have also contributed to the city experiencing massive water shortages. During 2019, the municipality implemented water restrictions in a move aimed at reducing the amount of water consumed by community members.

One of the water meters outside a property in Rustenburg North.

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